

Finally, current law allows the Secretary to limit to \$100 million the third-party liability exposure of airlines and aircraft manufacturers for any cause resulting from a terrorist event. This authority expires on September 30, 2007. The legislation before us today extends this authority to December 31 of this year.

Aviation is too important to our Nation's economy, contributing \$1.2 trillion in output and approximately 11.4 million U.S. jobs. It is too important to allow for any lapse of taxes or funding for critical aviation programs. Until H.R. 2881 is signed into law, we must ensure that the FAA has the funds it needs to continue its vital programs.

Mr. SPEAKER, H.R. 3540 provides a short 3-month extension to ensure FAA's programs remain fully funded, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Missouri.

Last week, Members of this body considered and passed the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007, H.R. 2881, which reauthorized the FAA for the next 4 years.

Unfortunately, the authority of the FAA's programs and taxes expires this Sunday, September 30. As it is unlikely Congress will be able to send a FAA reauthorization bill to the President for signature before the September 30 deadline, we have before us H.R. 3540, the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2007, to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the FAA for the next 90 days through the end of this year.

H.R. 3540 provides 3 months of AIP contract authority at the budget 2007 level, authorizes such sums as are necessary for FAA facilities and equipment, research and development, and operations for 3 months and extends the authority to limit the third-party liability of air carriers arising out of acts of terrorism for 3 months.

Most importantly, the bill will ensure that our national aviation system continues to operate until a full FAA reauthorization can be enacted.

There is much work yet to be done on the reauthorization bill. We must work in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion to craft legislation that our President can sign. That's our task. That is what the communities involved and our constituents expect of us.

I support this clean 3-month extension, and I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee for drafting and introducing H.R. 3540, and look forward to working with them as we continue consideration of the FAA reauthorization bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3540, the "Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2007."

The current authorization for aviation programs and taxes expires on September 30, 2007. Last week, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2881, the "FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007," to reauthorize the aviation programs for four years. Until this long-term reauthorization bill can be signed into law, there are a few critical provisions that must not be allowed to lapse at the end of this week. These important provisions are extended in H.R. 3540, the bill before us today.

I strongly support the extension of the aviation excise taxes as proposed in H.R. 3540. These taxes are necessary to support the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, which in recent years has provided about 80 percent of the Federal Aviation Administration's budget. With an uncommitted cash balance of less than \$2 billion, any lapse in the aviation taxes could put the solvency of the Trust Fund at risk.

In addition to extending the aviation taxes, H.R. 3540 extends the Airport Improvement Program. Because the Airport Improvement Program is funded by contract authority, rather than discretionary appropriations, funding for it is not automatically extended by Continuing Resolutions. H.R. 3540 creates \$918.75 million in Airport Improvement Program contract authority to fund the program for the three-month period from October 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007. This amount, when annualized, equals the fiscal year 2007 amount for the program (\$3.675 billion). This provision will ensure that airport funding is not interrupted because of a lapse in the Airport Improvement Program's authorization.

The bill also authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for Federal Aviation Administration Operations, Facilities and Equipment, and Research and Development programs for the three-month period of the extension.

Finally, current law allows the Secretary to limit to \$100 million the third-party liability exposure of airlines and aircraft manufacturers for any cause resulting from a terrorist event. This authority expires September 30, 2007. H.R. 3540 extends this authority to December 31, 2007.

In summary, this bill simply continues aviation programs and financing under the same terms and conditions as current law. It ensures that these important programs continue to operate without any interruption.

I thank Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCRERY of the Committee on Ways and Means for working with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to include the aviation authorization provisions in H.R. 3540. I also thank my Committee colleagues, Ranking Member MICA, Subcommittee Chairman COSTELLO, and Subcommittee Ranking Member PETRI, for working with me on this critical legislation.

I look forward to Senate passage of its long-term FAA reauthorization bill and sending a bill to the President in the coming months.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3540.

Mr. HULSHOF. We have no other speakers remaining, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, there being no further requests on this side of the aisle, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3540, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY PROGRAMS

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 79) recognizing the establishment of Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States and the contributions of those programs efforts to decrease hunger and help feed those in need.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 79

Whereas Hunters for the Hungry programs are cooperative efforts among hunters, sportsmen's associations, meat processors, State meat inspectors, and hunger relief organizations to help feed those in need;

Whereas during the past three years Hunters for the Hungry programs have brought hundreds of thousands of pounds of venison to homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks; and

Whereas each year donations have multiplied as Hunters for the Hungry programs continue to feed those in need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the cooperative efforts of hunters, sportsmen's associations, meat processors, State meat inspectors, and hunger relief organizations to establish Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States; and

(2) recognizes the contributions of Hunters for the Hungry programs to efforts to decrease hunger and help feed those in need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to encourage passage of House Resolution 79, recognizing the establishment of Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States and recognizing the contributions of those programs to decrease hunger and help feed those in need.

Hunters for the Hungry is a unique and innovative program that addresses hunger in communities nationwide. Hunters can donate their game and

fowl to Hunters for the Hungry which processes the meat and provides it to food banks and other feeding programs. This cooperative effort between hunters, processors, and the hunger community is an innovative example of how groups can work together toward a single worthy goal.

This legislation received unanimous support in the House Agriculture Committee, and I strongly encourage passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H. Res. 79 and applaud this body for recognizing the collaborative efforts of hunters, sportsmen's associations, meat processors, State meat inspectors and hunger relief associations to establish Hunters for the Hungry programs across the U.S.

When a hunter donates a deer, it is processed by professional meat cutters at inspected facilities. The meat is then packaged, frozen and distributed to food banks, soup kitchens, church food pantries, the Salvation Army and other nonprofit organizations serving the States' hungry. Funds are raised to cover the cost of processing, distribution and the overhead expenses of operation so that the meat can be provided to these agencies at no cost. Through the program, food banks and soup kitchens are provided with a low-fat, high-protein meat that may not otherwise be available.

In my own State of Virginia, the Virginia Hunters for the Hungry program has distributed over 2.3 million pounds of venison since its establishment in 1991. In the first year, roughly 33,000 pounds of venison was donated, processed and distributed through the program. Now, the average exceeds 300,000 pounds a year, and this program is a reflection of the generosity of the American spirit.

I commend the generosity of Virginia hunters and all who participate in the Hunters for the Hungry program, whose contributions are a step in the right direction in the fight against hunger.

Mr. Speaker, let me say on a personal note that I have had the pleasure of supporting this organization for several years now, and just recently, a few weeks ago, attended a Hunters for the Hungry banquet, at which the spirit of not just hunters but people who are generous and want to take care of the needs of those who can use additional sustenance and I think in a very efficient way have participated in this program and showed that generosity once more.

So I commend all those, not just in Virginia but across the country, who participate in this, and I particularly commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) who has fostered this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time it's my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) such time as he may consume.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman PETERSON and Ranking Member GOODLATTE, my good friend from California (Mr. CARDOZA), my classmate, and all the members on the Agriculture Committee for bringing this resolution to the floor today during the inaugural Congressional Sportsmen's Week.

I also want to thank the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, under the leadership of co-chairs RON KIND of Wisconsin and PAUL RYAN of Wisconsin, during this Congress. This bipartisan organization, comprised of close to 300 Members of the House and Senate, focuses on protecting the interests of our Nation's sportsmen. As a proud member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I know that it works diligently for our sportsmen who have historically shaped the character and the quality of America's cultural heritage, natural resources and economic vitality.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. GOODLATTE said, I first introduced the Hunters for the Hungry resolution in the 108th Congress to bring attention to an often overlooked group, our Nation's hunters, who help feed thousands of homeless and hungry people each year. The purpose of this resolution is to praise the work of Hunters for Hungry programs across our country. These programs provide a unique way in which to address our Nation's hunger problem.

Although these organizations are called by different names across the country, Hunters for the Hungry organizations show the humanitarian and the kindhearted spirit of our Nation's hunting community. These programs are volunteer and cooperative efforts among hunters, sportsmen's associations, meat processors, State meat inspectors and hunger relief organizations.

Over the past 3 years, these programs have brought hundreds of thousands of pounds of excess venison to homeless shelters, soup kitchens and food banks. Each year, donations have multiplied, and many programs now cannot even cover the costs of processing, packaging, storing and distributing the abundant supply of donated venison.

Hunters for the Hungry organizations serve as a great example of how our Nation can address issues like hunger without government intervention. These organizations receive no Federal funds, and they operate from donations and volunteer service. We must raise the awareness of these organizations so they can have the resources and the volunteers to serve America's underprivileged.

One such organization, Mr. Speaker, in my district is Pure Cuts Deer Processing in Floyd County. Nick Ballinger operates this volunteer effort, and it feeds thousands of hungry people in northwest Georgia. He's always open to both financial contributions and venison donations so that he can expand the organization and feed more people annually. Nick is just one of many kindhearted hunters who donate their time and money for those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask the House to speak in one voice of gratitude and urge passage of the Hunters for the Hungry resolution to honor this great community service.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I'd like to rise to congratulate my colleague, Mr. GINGREY from Georgia, on this legislation, and also thank my colleague and friend Mr. GOODLATTE for managing it on the Republican side.

Our chairman on the Democratic side, Mr. PETERSON, is an avid hunter and, I'd like to say, a very successful one as well. I know he wants to extend his gratitude for this bill and totally supports it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 79.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION IMPROVEMENT RENEWAL ACT

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1983) to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to renew and amend the provisions for the enhanced review of covered pesticide products, to authorize fees for certain pesticide products, to extend and improve the collection of maintenance fees, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows: